

THE FOX

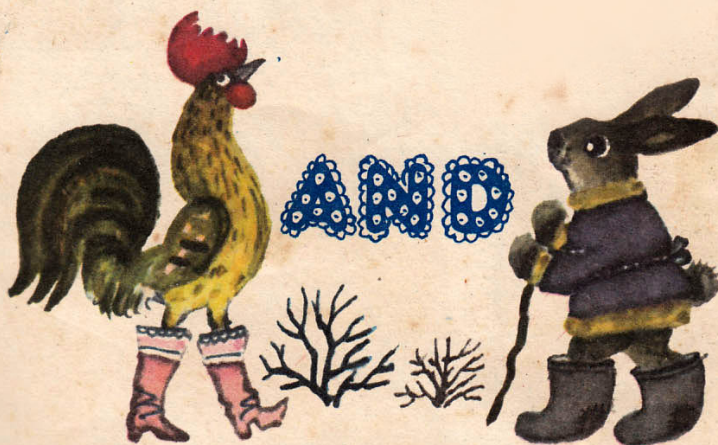


AND
THE HARE



THE FOX

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THE HARE



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nce upon a time there was a hare named Little Grey Hare and



a fox named Red Fox and they lived side by side in a forest glade.



With the coming of autumn, as the days grew shorter and the nights colder, Little Grey Hare's coat began to fade, and when winter arrived with its frosts and blizzards, it turned as white as snow. Feeling the cold keenly, Little Grey Hare decided to build himself a house. He gathered pieces of wood, brought them to the glade and set to in earnest.

"What are you doing, squint-eye?" asked Red Fox.



"Can't you see? Building myself a house to keep out the cold."
"Now, isn't that clever of him!" thought Red Fox. "I think I'll build myself a house, too. But not of wood. I want a really fine house, a palace!"

So off she went, brought back blocks of ice and began to build a house.



Both houses were soon ready, and the two neighbours moved in at the same time and felt very snug and cosy.
Red Fox looked out of her icy window and she laughed at Little Grey Hare.



"Call that a house, squint-eye!" said she. "I've never seen one so ugly and poor. Just look at mine. It's clean and bright and sparkling—a palace of crystal if there ever was one!"



Red Fox was very happy all winter, but when spring came and thawed the snow, her house melted quite away and ran downhill in a stream.

What was Red Fox to do? She couldn't very well live out in the open, could she! So she waited till Little Grey Hare came out for a walk and a meal of the fresh grass that he dug from under the snow, and, stealing into his house, climbed up on the stove ledge.

Little Grey Hare came, he tried to open the door, and lo!—it was locked. So he waited a little while and then knocked at it—rap-tap!



"Who's there?" Red Fox called in a thick voice.

"It's me, Little Grey Hare, whose house this is! Let me in, Red Fox!"

"I won't! Go away, squint-eye!" Red Fox replied. Little Grey Hare waited some more.

"That's enough, Red Fox," said he. "You've had your fun, and now let me in, for I'm sleepy and want to go to bed."

But Red Fox called out in reply:

"You wait, squint-eye! I'll jump out of here and I'll thrash you and shake you and tear you to pieces!"

Little Grey Hare burst out crying and off he went where the road led.

By and by he met Grey Wolf.

"Hullo there, Little Grey Hare!" said Grey Wolf. "What are you crying about?"

"How can I help it! I had a house of wood and Red Fox had one of ice. Her house melted away and ran downhill in a stream, so she got into mine and won't let me in!"

"Don't worry, I'll drive her out!"

"I don't know about that, Grey Wolf my dear. For she's locked herself in and means to stay there!"

"I won't be me if I don't do it!" Grey Wolf growled.

Little Grey Hare was overjoyed, and back he and Grey Wolf went together to drive out Red Fox.

"Hey, there, Red Fox, get out of Little Grey Hare's house!" Grey Wolf cried.

And Red Fox called back:

"You just wait, Grey Wolf! I'll climb down from the stove and jump out of the house and I'll thrash you and shake you and tear you to pieces!"

"Oh-oh! She sounds awfully cross!" Grey Wolf muttered, and away he ran into the forest, his tail between his legs.

And as for Little Grey Hare, he sat down on the ground and began to cry.

By and by who should come toward him but Black Bull.

"Hullo there, Little Grey Hare! Why are you crying?" asked Black Bull.

"How can I help it! I had a house of wood and Red Fox had one of ice. Her house melted away, so she got into mine and won't let me in!"

"Don't worry," said Black Bull. "I'll drive her out!"





"I don't know about that, Black Bull my dear. For she's locked herself in and means to stay there. Grey Wolf tried to drive her out and he couldn't, so how can you!"

"I won't be me if I don't do it!" Black Bull moored.

Little Grey Hare was overjoyed, and back he and Black Bull went together to drive out Red Fox.

"Hey, there, Red Fox, get out of Little Grey Hare's house!" Black Bull cried.

And Red Fox called back:

"You wait, Black Bull! I'll climb down from the stove and jump out of the house, and I'll thrash you and shake you and tear you to pieces!"

"Oh-oh! She sounds awfully cross!" Black Bull muttered, and he threw back his head and ran away.

And Little Grey Hare sat down by a hummock and began to cry. By and by who should come toward him but Brown Bear.

"Hullo there, Little Grey Hare!" he called. "Why are you crying?"

"How can I help it! I had a house of wood and Red Fox had one of ice. Her house melted away, so she got into mine and won't let me in!"

"Don't worry, I'll drive her out!"

"I don't know about that, Brown Bear my dear! For she's locked herself in and means to stay there. Grey Wolf tried to drive her out and he couldn't, and Black Bull tried and he couldn't, so how can you!"

"I won't be me if I don't do it!" Brown Bear roared.

Little Grey Hare was overjoyed. Back he went together with Brown Bear to drive out Red Fox, and he skipped gaily along all the way.

"Hey, there, Red Fox!" Brown Bear roared. "Get out of Little Grey Hare's house!"



"I don't know about that, Black Bull my dear. For she's locked herself in and means to stay there. Grey Wolf tried to drive her out and he couldn't, so how can you!"

"I won't be me if I don't do it!" Black Bull moored.

Little Grey Hare was overjoyed, and back he and Black Bull went together to drive out Red Fox.

"Hey, there, Red Fox, get out of Little Grey Hare's house!" Black Bull cried.

And Red Fox called back:

"You wait, Black Bull! I'll climb down from the stove and jump out of the house, and I'll thrash you and shake you and tear you to pieces!"

"Oh-oh! She sounds awfully cross!" Black Bull muttered, and he threw back his head and ran away.

And Little Grey Hare sat down by a hummock and began to cry.

By and by who should come toward him but Brown Bear.

"Hullo there, Little Grey Hare!" he called. "Why are you crying?"

"How can I help it! I had a house of wood and Red Fox had one of ice. Her house melted away, so she got into mine and won't let me in!"

"Don't worry, I'll drive her out!"

"I don't know about that, Brown Bear my dear! For she's locked herself in and means to stay there. Grey Wolf tried to drive her out and he couldn't, and Black Bull tried and he couldn't, so how can you!"

"I won't be me if I don't do it!" Brown Bear roared.

Little Grey Hare was overjoyed. Back he went together with Brown Bear to drive out Red Fox, and he skipped gaily along all the way.

"Hey, there, Red Fox!" Brown Bear roared. "Get out of Little Grey Hare's house!"





And Red Fox called back:

"You wait, Brown Bear! I'll climb down from the stove and jump out of the house and I'll thrash you and shake you and tear you to pieces!"

"Oh-oh! She sounds awfully cross!" said Brown Bear and away he ran.

What was Little Grey Hare to do? He began pleading with Red Fox to let him in again, but Red Fox paid him no heed.

Little Grey Hare burst out crying and off he went where the road led. He walked and he walked and by and by he met Golden Rooster the Fighting Cock with a sabre over his shoulder.





"Hullo there, Little Grey Hare!" said Golden Rooster. "Why are you crying?"

"How can I help it! I had a house of wood and Red Fox had one of ice. Her house melted away, so she got into mine and won't let me in!"

"Don't worry, I'll drive her out!"

"I don't know about that, Golden Rooster my dear! For she's locked herself in and means to stay there. Grey Wolf tried to drive her out and he couldn't, Black Bull tried and he couldn't, Brown Bear tried and he couldn't, so how can you!"

"Never mind, I'll have a try just the same," said Golden Rooster, and back he and Little Grey Hare went together to drive out Red Fox.

They came up to Little Grey Hare's house, and Golden Rooster called:

Come, Red Fox, don't try to hide—
Golden Rooster waits outside.
With my sabre sharp and new
I will straightway fall on you.
Out, Red Fox, and fast away,
Leave this house without delay
Or at once and no mistake
Of your skin a hat I'll make!

Red Fox heard him and was very frightened.
"Wait, Golden Rooster with the Silken Beard, don't be in such a hurry!" she called.

But Golden Rooster would not listen to her.

"Cock-a-doodle-do! I am coming straight at you!" he cried.

Said Red Fox again in the thinnest and sweetest of voices:

"Please, Golden Rooster with the Crimson Comb, do take pity on my old bones and let me at least put on my coat!"

But Golden Rooster stood at the door and called as he had before:

Come, Red Fox, don't try to hide—
Golden Rooster waits outside.
With my sabre sharp and new
I will straightway fall on you.
Out, Red Fox, and fast away,
Leave this house without delay
Or at once and no mistake
Of your skin a hat I'll make!

There was nothing to be done, so Red Fox opened the door, jumped out and ran away as fast as her legs could carry her. And as for Golden Rooster, he and Little Grey Hare settled down together in Little Grey Hare's house and they lived in good cheer and shed never a tear.







ЛИСА И ЗАЯЦ

Русская народная сказка

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